Multi-drug Therapy

424 DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about four million Leprosy cases in the country;

(b) whether multi-drug therapy is the quickest method to cure leprosy; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to cover all the patients by the multi-drug therapy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Currently 13.00 lakh leprosy cases in 48 endemic districts have been drought under multi-drug treatment. It is proposed to bring 76 endemic districts under multi-drug treatment (MDT) by 1990 and remaining 125 endemic districts by 1995. Balance 10 per cent of the cases in other 211 low endemic districts will be put on MDT by 2000 AD.

Air Bus deal

425. SHRI CHITTA BASU. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deal has been signed between the Government and the Air Bus Industries last year for the purchase of Air bus aircraft; and

(b) if so, details of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) With the Government's approval, Indian Airlines signed an Agreement with M|s. Airbus Industries, France, on 15th March, 1986, for purchase of 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft.

(b) The purchase Agreement envisages the delivery of 19 Airbus A320 Aircrafts, fitted with V2500 Engines manufactured by International Aero Engines. The delivery of aircraft will commence from April, 1989 and end in March, 1990. The total Project Cost approved by the Government for purchase of these aircraft including the related spare engines, spare parts and Ground support equipment is Rs 1238.37 crores including a fereign exchange content of Rs. 1142.23 crores. In the purchase agreement a provision has been made, whereby Airbus Industries is to arrange and supply suitable Airbus A300 and B-737 aircraft on dry lease, to Indian Airlines, number to be mutually decided to meet the interim capacity requirement of Indian Airline upto the delivery of the A-320 aircraft.

Railway Land leased out to businessman in Calcutta

426. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have leased out above 2 acres of valuable railway land to a Calcutta businessman in New Alipore area of Calcutta;

(b) whether the land remained vacant with the abolition of K.F. Railway (Kalighat-Falta) several years before and got vested in the Eastern Railway;

(c) whether Government of West Bengal is legally entitled to the said land; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to hand over the land to the West Bengal Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Calcutta Airport

427. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Calcutta Airport's share of the total air-borne

trade has been showing signs of decline for the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any steps have since been taken for its improvement; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Festivals of India organised abroad

428. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries where Festivals of India were organised during the last three years and the country-wise amount spent by Government on these festivals;

(b) what were the objectives of the festivals and whether these are achieved; and

(c) what are the names of the countries, where Festivals of India are proposed to be organised in the coming three years and the proposed amount to be spent, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI):

(a) Festivals of India were held in USA and France during 1985-86 and Festival of India in USSR and Indian Manifestation in Sweden are currently being held. The details of the expenditure incurred on these festivals are as nuder:

(i) Festival of India in USA and France (upto 31-3-1986) — Rs. 10,74,09,757 (The final figures are being collected).

(ii) Festival of India in U.S.S.R. (upto 10-11-1987) — Rs. 5,70,26,459. approx.

(iii) Indian Manifestation in Sweden (upto 10-11-1987) — Rs. 45,28,323 approx.

(b) General objectives of the Festivals of India abroad are as under:

(1) To depict Indian Cultural heritage alongwith its contemporary development and achievements

(2) To open opportunites for mutual exchanges between India and different counrties in various spheres on a more permanent footing.

(3) To serve as a catalyst for industrial, economic development and industrial cooperation.

(4) To promote commercial interest through the various cultural presentations.

(c) A Festival of India in Japan will be held from April to November, 1988. The likely expenditure on this Festival will be Rs. 3 60 crores.

Railway trains from Ghat Kopar in Bombay

429 SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start trains originating and terminating from Ghat Kopar in Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) There are two pairs of services originating/terminating at Ghatkopar during the morning peak period. It is not possible to terminate more trains during the peak hours at present due to operational limitations.